

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting

5 June 2007

Members present: R. Stephen Leighton, Chairman, JoAnn Brown and Lynn Sweet.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Among those present were Charlie King, Kathy King, Scott Young (Police Chief), Greg Messenger (Road Agent), Carol Reynolds Johnson, George Johnson, Jr., Rep. Bob Perry, Amanda Dumond (Foster's Daily Democrat) and Vera Boals.

Charlie and Kathy King (representing Joyce King) attended to discuss property on Pig Lane (Map 8, Lot 19) and what might be required to obtain a building permit. What had been required in the past was discussed, however, Mr. Leighton advised that Planning Board is currently working, in cooperation with the Selectmen, to determine what future requirements will be. It was noted that the next work session of the Planning Board would not be held until later in June. No firm answer could be given at this time. They will check back next month.

There was discussion regarding conditions on Webber Road, what type of culvert (possibly an arch), what lengths or combination of lengths the culvert/culverts should be, along with what diameter would be best. It was noted that Carol Reynolds Johnson is working with Scott Young (Emer. Mgmt. Director) on the application for the permit required to repair/replace the culvert. Stephen Leighton placed a call to Susan Hoey (NRCS) who is also a resident of Strafford and had provided design assistance on the prior permit. A message was left requesting that she return the call in hopes of having her help with this application. It was noted also that at least two people on the road have received some aid from FEMA (Vera Boals and Wayne Lintean), however others were turned down. Why? Ownership of the road was discussed. Some were under the impression that FEMA would not help them as they were not the owners of the road. Mr. Leighton explained that under NH law, the town owns the easement or right to pass, however, the "land" is owned by the property owners who abut the road. Mrs. Johnson requested a letter providing this information. Selectmen were in agreement that they would check with the Town Attorney. Residents will be asking FEMA why funding was awarded to residents previously, and they are ineligible now. Mrs. Johnson advised that she has also contacted the Governor's Office and representatives, including Carol Shea Porter to discuss their situation. There are changes needed at the legislative end to keep people from "falling through the cracks". It was noted that the legal criteria for declaration of an emergency lane (RSA 231:59-a, II.) requires that "the public need for keeping such lane passable by emergency vehicles is supported by an identified public welfare or safety interest which surpasses or differs from any private benefits to landowners abutting such lane". Procedure for conditional layouts and betterment assessments were also discussed, however those present were cautioned to discuss with their attorney. It was noted that this process was attempted in 1991 and was not successful. Meanwhile, the residents will continue working on their application for a wetland's permit to repair/replace the culvert, and continue appealing to FEMA for assistance.

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In response to a letter received today regarding a trail ride to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Scott Young advised the sponsors that the Little Niagra Road is now closed to all vehicular traffic and cannot be used as part of this trail ride.

Board noted that local contractors had been contacted to provide them with the opportunity to bid on the proposed construction to the Bow Lake Fire Station. Bids are scheduled to be opened at 6:00 P.M. at the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to be held on Tuesday, June 19, 2007.

Copy of letter sent to the Conservation Commission and ZBA regarding the construction underway by John and Christine Monteiro, was read. It was noted that a "cease and desist" has already been issued on this property. ZBA will advise Mrs. Karpeichik. In addition, the Conservation Commission is going on a site review on the question of filling in the wetlands.

An Intent to Cut form was reviewed and signed for George Lovejoy (Map 9, Lot 21A).

Based on information received from our appraiser, there is an apartment located in the barn on Map 16, Lot 35. A building permit was taken out for the barn, however, not for the apartment. Although there is enough land, the septic would have to be addressed, a building permit secured and zoning would require that it be under one roof with the house. Will have Building Inspector send letter advising that they must take necessary steps to comply with zoning.

JoAnn Brown noted that she has just received confirmation, that we will be receiving a landfill closure grant payment in the amount of \$14,796.23 for 2007.

A motion was made, seconded and voted to accept the minutes from the May 15th and May 23rd meetings of the Board.

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.